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STATE LEGISLATURE, MADRAS

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 5th May 1962.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Island Ground

*41 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the lease of 21 acres of land on the Island Ground to the Board of Trustees of the International House and Institute for construction of buildings thereon; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government of Madras have been consulted in the matter, and the representation, if any, made by them in this behalf?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister): (*a*) & (*b*) There was some correspondence on this subject, some time back. The actual decision to transfer the land was not, however, intimated to this Government. Particulars of the transfer have been requested from the Defence Ministry.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: May I know when this Board of Trustees was created?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Some two years back.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Who are the members of the Trust Board?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Government have no information.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Were the Madras Government consulted before the Defence Ministry handed over the land?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: If the hon. Member had heard my answer, this question would not have arisen. I have said, "There was some correspondence on this subject, some time back. The actual decision to transfer the land was not, however, intimated to this Government."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Is it the policy of the Government to see that at least the open spaces still available are not used as built space?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It is too general a question. It is the policy of the Government to see that open spaces are preserved as far as possible.

[5th May 1962

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Were not objections raised when the Government of India wanted that a part of the Island Ground should be given to the Reserve Bank for putting up construction?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : In the course of my reply to the debate on the Governor's Address, I have said that both the publication and the criticism are premature. There was no proposal made to this Government at any time that any part of the Island Ground was going to be built up. Therefore, the question did not arise.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Were the Corporation and the City Improvement Trust consulted in this matter of alienation of property belonging to the Defence Ministry?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I do not see why the Defence Ministry should consult the Corporation of Madras and the City Improvement Trust for the purpose of dealing with part of their own property.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Does it mean that the Defence Ministry can do anything over the head of the Corporation which has got a control over the erection of buildings?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The first part of the question was whether they consulted. Now the hon. Member is putting the question, 'Can they do oanything?' I do not seee the logic of it.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : How far is it true to say that the move is only to improve the existing buildings and not to make encroachments upon the open space?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That is what is said. We do not know, as I said, the details.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will it not be dangerous to have people in the International Hostel from various countries which may be against the democratic form of Government?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It all depends on what connotation we give to the word 'democratic'. The hon. Member Dr. Sreenivasan may know that the word 'democratic' is used in different blocks of countries in different ways. As far as the Madras State Government are concerned we, do not see anything undemocratic in having International Houses in Madras City.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Have the Government of Madras brought to the notice of the Government of India that there were objections from the people to the putting up of construction since the publication of the report in the newspapers?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We do not believe in doing things beforehand. Actually the proposal itself is not before the Government. Therefore, there is no point in saying that criticism would be brought forward by somebody.

5th May 1962]

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Was not the land actually handed over by the Defence Ministry to one of the citizens of Madras?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes.

Sales tax

* 42 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether any representations have been received to exempt from sales tax certain medical goods like asavas and arishtas, including draksharishtam and pippilavasavam, and if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, Sir. The Government examined the representation and issued a Press Note on 15th March 1962 explaining the position. A copy of the Press Note[a] is placed on the Table of the House.

Refixation of pay

* 43 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether is is a fact that weightage has not been allowed in the refixation of pay in the revised scales of pay in the case of some teachers in elementary and secondary schools; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir. Weightage has been allowed in the case of all teachers.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Am I right in taking it that the total service of a teacher as entered in the Service Register is taken for the purposes of weightage?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is so.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that Pandits of over 15 years of service and with secondary grade service in elementary schools have not been given proper weightage and will the Government re-examine the question?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would like to have notice.

SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN : தலைவர் அவர்களே, பஞ்சாயத்து யூனியனில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்ட தனியார் பள்ளிகளில் பணியாற்றிக்கொண்டிருந்த ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு அவர்கள் முன்னால் பணியாற்றிய கால அளவு மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : அது இப்போது அரசாங்கத்தின் யோசனையில் இருக்கிறது.

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[a] Printed as Appendix on page 296.